



A&E P4: Revisit Soul music's importance



OPINION P5: Do you want to be the very best like no one ever was?



VIDEO: Spartans can't hold on against UCI

TRIAL DAY ELEVEN



Quincy Bouldin | Spartan Daily

Colin Warren (left), Logan Beaschler (middle) and Joseph "Bret" Bomgardner are the three defendants charged with misdemeanor hate crime and battery for targeting Donald Williams Jr., in a series of escalating "pranks" that included putting a bike lock around his neck.

MAYOR ON CAMPUS

KQED forum reviews San Jose's social issues

By Ryan Vermont
Staff writer

The city of San Jose, including the SJSU community, collaborated to discuss local and nationwide social issues, as well as the ongoing status of race relations on campus Wednesday.

"Forum on the Road" was presented by KQED public radio and took place from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on campus inside the University Theatre.

Forum host Michael Krasny spoke with San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo for the first hour in somewhat of a preview of the State of the City speech happening March 5th at Overfelt High School.

Price of housing, public transit, homelessness, safety of the community and traffic among others were just a few of the numerous concerns brought up.

Mayor Liccardo answered the questions asked of him, and most answers revolved around the lack of money and resources.

"All of the money is going to more police officers and filling up potholes" Liccardo said.

Rather than avoiding the issue, Mayor Liccardo was straightforward about the tight money situation in San

Jose. Multiple times over the course of the event, Liccardo used to word "broke" when asked why certain things weren't being accomplished.

At one point in the forum, host Krasny cited an FBI report saying that San Jose had one of the worst violent crime rates in the country. Liccardo quickly dismissed that statement and encouraged the host to take a closer look at the numbers.

"We actually have the lowest violent crime rate of any major city in the country," Liccardo said.

The mayor said that strategies such as data analytics are being implemented to try and become more efficient in different facets of the city.

An example he used to explain was being able to effectively pinpoint crime hotspots based off of statistics and then send more police officers to those areas to counter.

Liccardo also said that the community, as a whole, has to use the money more effectively.

The Mayor's priorities for 2016 is to continue improving safety for San Jose residents and broadening opportunities in the valley.

Liccardo believed taking the "long view" will make his

priorities become reality.

The second hour of the program featured a panel of guests who engaged in an aggressive and insightful discussion dealing with race relations and discrimination on campus and nationwide.

The panel consisted of student activists Gary Daniels and Zhane Gay, Marcos Pizarro, a member of San Jose State's special task force on Racial Discrimination, Ladoris Cordell, a chair member on San Jose State's special task force on Racial Discrimination and Bill Armaline, Director of the Human Rights Program and Krasny.

Krasny directed different questions at the individuals, each who had an opinion on the state of racism and discrimination on the San Jose State campus and nationwide, as well in regards to the 2013 SJSU hate crime

Cordell's argument was that the people of San Jose need to fight for a post-racial America.

"It is leadership that sets the standard and will determine where this university goes on the issue of race," Cordell said.

Among other topics, Marcos

KQED PAGE 2

Jury to begin deliberating verdict

By Raphael Stroud
Contributing writer

The defense and prosecution finished their closing arguments for the misdemeanor hate crime trial on Wednesday in a noticeably divided courtroom.

On the right were the Williams family and several members of the SJSU Black Student Union.

On the left were the families of Logan Beaschler, Colin Warren and Joseph Bomgardner, the defendants.

While the court audience eventually got around to mixing sides, the contrast was a stark symbol of the implications of the case.

Prosecutor Carolyn Malinsky finished the argument she started Tuesday, going through evidence and witness testimonies to expose flaws in the defendants' honesty and character.

She scoffed at the notion that Beaschler would not believe his Nazi paraphernalia could be offensive to African-Americans, pointing out that he professed an interest in World War II history. She argued that the only person who said Beaschler ever listened to rap music (to explain his use of the N-word) was Beaschler himself, only after a prompt from his lawyer.

She pointed out how many "coincidences" there were in

regards to the racial aspects of the case, homing in on the use of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s words in a apology letter as reason to believe the men involved knew what they were doing had racial undertones. She similarly pointed to the phrasing of the letter as being insincere.

She reminded the jury that when the Confederate flag was hung outside of the dorm window, Resident Advisors told the students to remove it due to a complaint they received from a black student.

She used this incident to re-emphasize that the defendants knew the Confederate flag was offensive to African-Americans, but instead of removing the flag completely, they simply moved its location to the living room.

The defense attorneys focused on the individual involvement (or lack thereof) of their clients while also fighting to dispel the idea that three former students were racist.

Warren's lawyer Dek Ketchum highlighted Colin's five week relationship with Michelle Tripp, a black student, but also pointed to inconsistent statements by Donald Williams Jr. and roommate Matt Regan, as why the evidence did not prove "without reason of doubt" that Warren was involved

TRIAL PAGE 2

SPORTS



Infographic by Kevin Mistry

SEE FULL ARTICLE PAGE 6

A&E



Tyler Kittle | Spartan Daily

"Blue Eyes," a sculpture made by Robert Arneson in 1991 proves self-portraits don't have to be restricted to paintings and pictures.

Selfies in the eye of an artist

By Tyler Kittle
Staff writer

One of the simplest forms of art and self expression is the self-portrait, one with a heavy presence today in social media with the art of the selfie.

The New Museum Los Gatos (NUMU), a small art and history museum in Los Gatos wants to display every aspect of it with their exhibit, "More Than Your Selfie."

"More Than Your Selfie" focuses on the different aspects of self-portraiture, featuring art mostly sourced from the Bay Area and

other parts of California.

"'More Than Your Selfie' is an exhibit that explores self-portraiture from cave men's mark making to contemporary iPhone self-portraits," said Julie Harper, NUMU exhibition designer.

The exhibit isn't hard to miss as you're greeted by a tall mirror that not only has a description of the exhibit on it, but makes the visitor create their own self-portrait inadvertently.

There are a few TV screens throughout the exhibit that display the concept self-portraits can convey, as well as a slideshow of self-portraits.

One piece that stands out is a small, white bust that looks like the back of its head was chopped off, called Blue Eyes by Robert Arneson.

A notable series of work displayed are called the Official Portraits by Hung Liu, who was born in China and immigrated to the U.S.

Each colorful portrait represents various parts and changes in the artist's life.

Many pieces represent more than just the artist's physical appearance, but also who they are.

SELFIE PAGE 3



TRIAL >> from page 1

in most of the hazing, including the second bike lock incident.

The attorney also highlighted decisions made by investigating officers during police interviews and the way record keeping was handled.

Ketchum said there was not enough proof to make a life-affecting guilty verdict, casting doubt on Williams and Regan’s testimonies by expanding on their difficulty in answering his questions compared to the questions they fielded from the prosecution.

Ketchum pointed out the former roommates’ answers came less naturally and more delayed when he asked the questions, compared to the way they responded to prosecutor Malinsky.

Defense attorney Chuck Mesirow, who arguably has the most to defend of the three attorneys regarding his client, Beaschler, began his closing arguments by describing the young man’s actions as “immature, stupid and insensitive, but not racist.”

He also said while he wasn’t “blaming” Williams for what happened, the young man had a responsibility to be more direct with his roommates and should have let them know he thought they were going too far.

Mesirow went over Beaschler’s upbringing, how he went to inner-city schools and played on sports teams where at times he was the only white child on the roster.

He brought up his mother’s friend of 30 years who had known Beaschler since he was a boy, noting that she was African-American and defended Beaschler against any claims of racism.

Mesirow argued that, out of context, the situation looks much worse than it actually is. But in context, every element of Beaschler’s involvement, especially the racial aspects, could be explained to show that race was not actually his motivation.

“...before you stamp someone’s forehead with ‘R for Racism,’ you would at least do some homework,” Mesirow said.

Mesirow told the jury that racism isn’t subtle, and that either a person is racist, or they aren’t. He ended his argument instructing the jury to “put aside prejudice” and decide purely on the evidence, not their personal feelings for Beaschler or his personal beliefs.

Last to close was Sam Polverino, who represents Bomgardner. He opened his arguments casually, joking that it was “cruel and unusual punishment” to sit through four lawyers’ arguments in one day.

He became serious when discussing the repercussions of branding someone with a hate crime, and the mark it would leave Bomgardner for the rest of his life if he is found guilty.

He acknowledged Bomgardner’s small involvement, saying that the main reason he complied was because in college as freshmen, most students just try to fit in. He

cited testimonies of Bomgardner and Regan as examples of roommates who did not step in because they didn’t want to cause trouble in the dorm.

He painted the bike lock as a stunt akin to a wedgie or wet willie, not as harassment, saying that “not every mistake is a crime.”

He highlighted Bomgardner’s lack of overall involvement and an alleged apology he’d given Williams, which Williams claimed to not remember during cross-examination.

He said that, despite Williams’ testimony, Bomgardner and the young man were on friendly terms, and that Bomgardner was a good person at heart who went to SJSU to serve his country in ROTC. He pointed out that no witnesses said Bomgardner had a trait of racism, and that the collective testimonies, interviews and evidence proves he is not guilty of committing a hate crime.

“When you put the man together, the evidence falls into place,” Polverino said.

Prosecutor Malinsky is set to give her rebuttal to the defense’s closing arguments. Then, the jury will be left to decide whether or not the three former Spartans are guilty of their charged crimes.

Follow Raphael on Twitter @randomlyralph

KQED >> from page 1

Pizarro discussed the creation of task forces to increase student of color success.

The objective of the task forces are to figure out ways the university can better engage students of color and build on the resources and strengths they bring to the university.

Gary Daniels said students requested and were promised a Black Cultural Resource and recruitment center, even before the hate crime happened.

The center would provide educational and social resources, as well as funding for recruitment efforts to boost the falling African-American student population.

Daniels also said there’s been “absolutely no progress” on the development of the recruitment center.

Student activist Zhane Gay told a story about coming to SJSU in 2012 because the school’s diversity drew her to the school.



Ryan Vermont | Spartan Daily

KQED public radio host Michael Krasny addresses the audience before the “Forum on the Road” begins Feb. 17.

However, she said she was “traumatized” when she heard about the hate crime in 2013.

“Why are we reactionary to racism when we all know it’s with us” Armaline said.

Armaline said that people must be more proactive rather than reactive and suggested that the university doesn’t have a diversity problem but it has a racism problem.

“Forum on the Road” discussed a number of problematic social and race-related issues to be further developed in the coming years.

As the forum concluded, the panel acknowledged that for progression to be made regarding racial tension and the unification of San Jose State, someone within the university needs to take the lead.

Follow Ryan on Twitter @Your_Pal_Ryan

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SJSU SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY KQED



The real cost of cheap gas

By Tyler Kittle
Staff writer

Everyone is reaping the benefits of low gas prices now, but many people fail to realize the downside.

Gas is very cheap and can be found for less than \$2 per gallon in the Silicon Valley.

Heck, gas is cheaper in other states and AAA reported that last Saturday's national average was only \$1.698.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), gas has not been this cheap since the early 2000s, more than a decade ago.

This is quite the difference from my high school days when gas was sometimes \$4 per gallon.

The EIA forecasts even lower average gas prices for 2016 than 2015.

It seems great that everyone can fill their tanks without necessarily feeding their paycheck into the pump. But, like most commodities, there are impacts that consumers will likely fail to realize.

The most obvious problems are caused by people driving more frequently since gas is affordable.

CNN Money reported the rate of vehicle-related deaths in the first six months of 2015 was higher than the rate in 2014 over the same time frame.

It also reported that the National Safety Council connected the higher fatality rates to cheap gas, causing people to drive more.

In addition to a rise in driving, people are buying cars that have poor fuel efficiency.

Scientific American reported that SUV and truck sales spiked in late 2015 while hybrids and full electric car sales dropped.

America, including myself, has an undeniable love affair with large, inefficient vehicles. Plus, low gas prices will not encourage anyone to choose something more efficient.

Low fuel economy and high mileage will

also have a negative impact on the environment and make us more dependent on oil.

As much as I like my gas-guzzling vehicle, I know it is not good to see so many similar vehicles on the road.

Then, there is the matter of who supplies America with the oil.

Despite popular opinion, the majority of crude is produced domestically rather than the Middle East.

EIA released a report on Feb. 5 that said domestic crude oil refineries averaged over 15 million barrels per day, with import over 7 million barrels per day throughout that week.

So, there is more oil coming from domestic sources than from foreign sources, but our methods of obtaining oil might pose a problem.

According to The Wall Street Journal, fracking was responsible for 49 percent of U.S. oil production in February last year.

Fracking is a process used to obtain oil or natural gas from shale rock where a liquid is injected into the rock at high pressure, making oil or gas easier to obtain.

Fracking is a controversial method and I cannot imagine that buying more gas will reverse the trend.

In addition, low gas prices are not even helping the economy. Dallas Morning News, despite popular opinion, reported that people were slow to buy cheaper gas in early 2015.

However, this may have changed in late 2015 since it shows we may be slow to change when gas prices rise.

Cheap gas is good for our wallets, but expensive gas provides the influence to choose more efficient vehicles.

Regardless, these prices will not stay low for much longer.

We probably will not see prices like \$4 per gallon soon, but they will eventually rise. The EIA even predicts higher prices in 2017.

So, enjoy these low prices while you can, but be mindful of the effects and remember that this will not become a permanent trend. Therefore, plan your next car purchase wisely and accordingly.

Follow Tyler on Twitter @TylerKittle426

Genetic modification has hidden benefits

By Casey Geier
Staff writer

Genetically modified human embryos. Sounds like something out of a B-list Sci-fi thriller. However, this futuristic endeavor can save lives.

Fortunately, we don't have to wait for flying cars to be invented before we see this sort of technology because the U.K. just allowed scientists to begin genetically modifying human embryos, according to BBC.

Before the idea of super humans crosses your mind, realize there are some limitations of the study.

The fertility regulator that approved the modification of DNA is only allowing the DNA to be studied for seven days and is forbidding scientists from implanting the modified embryos back into the woman.

The question of how ethical manipulating DNA is something scientists will likely be questioned for.

Do we have the right to change something as unique as DNA for our own personal gain?

I believe we possess the right for the sake of saving lives.

Dr. Kathy Niakan, who has ten years worth of experience with human development is excited to be leading the ground breaking experiment.

"We would really like to understand the genes needed for a human embryo to develop successfully into a healthy baby...The reason why it is so important is because miscarriages and infertility are extremely common, but they're not very well understood," Niakan said.

Some may see the editing of human DNA as a way of playing God.

Changing something as unique and predisposed as DNA certainly seems like a line many would be hesitant to cross, but genetic modification is not a new concept.

It's used in hundreds of different food products. I challenge you to buy tomatoes

that aren't modified to prevent bruising, or chickens that aren't modified to grow twice as large than normal. These are practices that have been approved by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and are taking place this very second.

China already began modifying human embryos last year. So far, they have been able to correct a gene that caused a blood disorder.

The Guardian estimates that 4 percent of babies born in the U.K. this year alone will carry a genetic or birth defect that may result in early death.

As research of modification continues, scientists will eventually be able to correct genes responsible for genetic disorders such as haemophilia and cystic fibrosis.

I don't see the argument against modification for being unethical when it can lead to saving newborn lives.

Sure, genetic modification technology in humans certainly shouldn't be treated the same way for food products and animals, but it is done at such an early stage of life that the results would not even be noticeable to the subject.

I wouldn't know I was immune to cystic fibrosis if I was hypothetically genetically modified, unless I was later told.

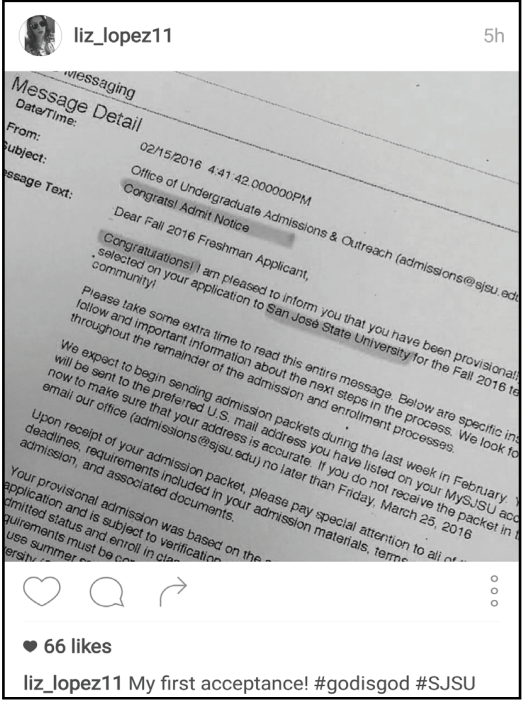
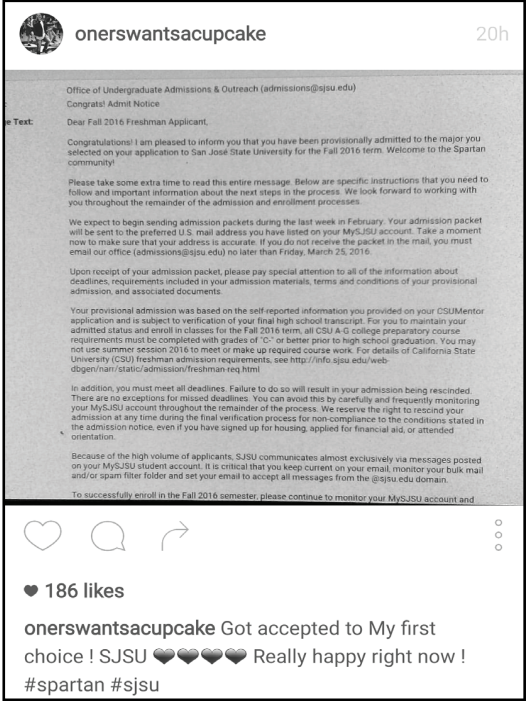
The fact that scientists are on the verge of potentially eradicating diseases before a child is even born sounds like it could be revolutionary to the medical community.

Depending on how well testing goes in the U.K., and if China continues to see results, the United States will be asked to make the jump.

Follow Casey on Twitter @casey_geier



Thursday thoughts



Thursday, February 18, 2016

The impact ‘Pokemon’ had on me

By Raymond Baltazar
Staff writer

“I wanna be the very best, like no one ever was,” is how the original “Pokemon” theme song started. Just reading it in your head makes you want to break into melody and sing the whole song.

Feb. 27 marks the 20th anniversary of “Pokemon.” It has been 20 years since the very first games, “Pokemon” Red and Green, were released in Japan.

Two years after Japan’s release, North America released “Pokemon” Red and Blue, followed by “Pokemon” Yellow a year later, creating an iconic pop culture that thrives today.

As a ‘90s kid, I grew up with two famous cartoon mice, Disney’s Mickey Mouse and “Pokemon’s” Pikachu.

To this day, many people would say that they grew up watching Disney and memorized the most popular songs from movies like “The Lion King” or “The Little Mermaid.” But for me, “Pokemon” has a special place in my heart and will stay there until I die.

I grew up watching the anime first, with Ash Ketchum traveling around the world and trying his best to become a “Pokemon” master. His journey became “the stuff of dreams” for everyone who watched the anime.

The anime struck a nerve in me, teaching me about companionship and camaraderie as Ash builds close bonds with friends and “Pokemon” he meets along the way. “Pokemon” has influenced my desire to travel.

“‘Pokemon’ has really inspired me to be creative,” said junior kinesiology major Yevgeny Medalle. “It also kind of creates this small bond with it, even though it may not be real, but in your head it is kind of realistic.”

Medalle also added that dealing with all the different types of “Pokemon” is similar to dealing with different kinds of people.

Growing up with the games, I started backwards. My first

game was “Pokemon” Gold and I instantly became hooked.

The “Pokemon” catchphrase, “Gotta catch ‘em all,” became a reality to me in this virtual world. From then on, I have played every single “Pokemon” game that has come out, with a couple of spinoffs here and there.

The games have definitely become a huge influence in my life, as with others.

In the beginning, I played “Pokemon” just like every other kid and chose my starter “Pokemon,” training them and battling others. I remember that I would always save my game before every gym battle, not wanting to have a losing streak.

I don’t play as much as I would like to now, but I always stay up-to-date about anything that deals with “Pokemon.”

“‘Pokemon’ has definitely taught me to be patient and never give up,” said sophomore forensic science major Breanne Familara. “So when I would go battle gym leaders and lose, I had to be patient so that I could train hard to beat them the first time.

Familara noted that it is very rewarding at the end of the game because you know that you worked really hard on your own to finish it all the way through.

The feeling of nostalgia is strong when you listen to the animalistic cries of each “Pokemon” you encounter or the old eight-bit sound bites from each place you visit. Every “Pokemon” player knows Lavender Town’s theme song was creepy.

As of now, there are officially 721 existing “Pokemon” and since this year marks the 20th anniversary, I can only imagine there will be 100 more to come this next generation.

In fact, just this past Valentine’s Day, a new and upcoming “Pokemon” was leaked in CoroCoro, a popular Japanese magazine.

For me, as a self-proclaimed “Pokemon” enthusiast,



each generation of Pokemon has left great memories of my childhood until now. Like Medalle said, you create some sort of bond with each “Pokemon” even if they are not real.

“Pokemon” taught camaraderie because, back in the late ‘90s, you had to find someone with the other version of the game and ask to trade with them. It brought people together with this game style.

Now, you can connect to Wi-Fi and trade, battle or communicate with people around the world.

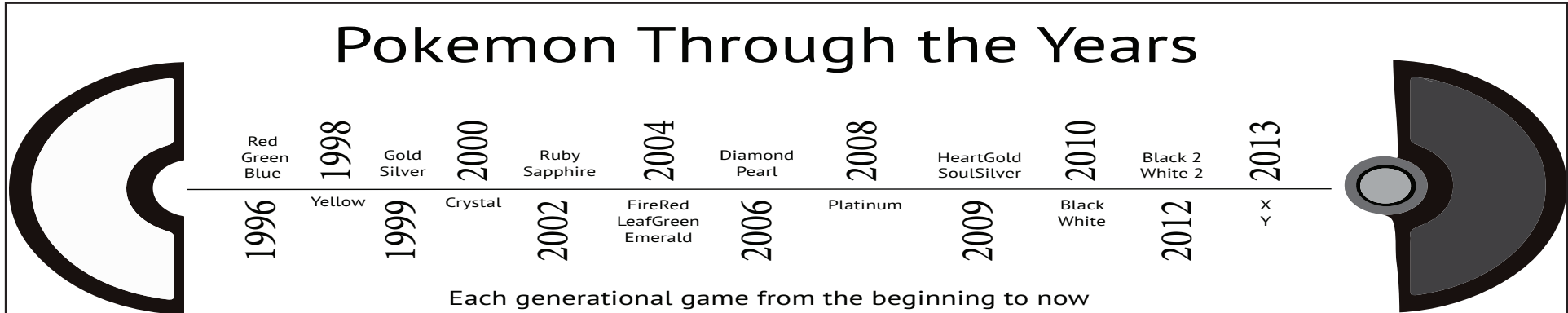
“Since the beginning, ‘Pokemon’ has made an impact in my life because I played it a lot with my brother, and he’s five years older than me so it was the only way we could bond,” said Khaila Zherine Flores, junior psychology major and President of Pokemon Club. “I really enjoyed being able to share my love of ‘Pokemon’ with everyone else.”

During Super Bowl 50, “Pokemon” released a commercial that showed people around the world being inspired by one another, with each person saying “I can do that.”

“I think it’s a very great event that is going on,” Medalle said. “It is celebrating 20 years of basically a part of my life. And it is kind of backtracking to all these great memories and achievements that can be brought back to life in a new generation and way.”

From the original theme song of “wanting to be the very best” to their Super Bowl 50 commercial, “Pokemon” is not just some game or cartoon anymore, it is an influential culture inspiring and bringing people together. “Pokemon” keeps that childhood imagination as you grow older, and there is nothing wrong with that.

Follow Raymond on Twitter @raysremmurd



Infographic by Raymond Baltazar

eSports and its growing demographic

By Justin Tonel
Staff writer

What makes an athlete? Is it the hard work, dedication, practice or recognition?

Imagine, instead of a traditional sport, you competed professionally in video games.

With the increasing popularity of professional gaming television networks, the media industry has sought to capitalize on the growing demographic.

According to the Entertainment Software Association, 155 million Americans play video games and four out of five households own a device used to play video games.

Competitive gaming may sound funny, but what started as a simple pastime has grown into a global industry.

On Oct. 31, 2015, over 36 million people worldwide tuned in to watch the final match between SK Telecom T1 and Koo Tigers compete in Berlin’s Mercedes-Benz Arena for the fourth League of Legends World Championship series.

To put that into perspective, the NBA Finals of 2015 recorded an average of 20 million viewers, according to ABC.

Television networks like TBS, ESPN and CW are hoping to reach the coveted millennial gaming demographic in its upcoming broadcasts of tournaments for Counter-Strike: Global Offensive and Mortal Kombat.

Video streaming services Twitch and Youtube have also

made it possible for the industry to grow, allowing gamers to market themselves and produce content

According to a report released from Newzoo, it is estimated that over \$278 million were generated in ticket and merchandise sales while another \$107 million were generated in online advertising.

That was just for 2015 alone.

It is estimated by 2018 that the global eSports revenue will grow to over \$765 million for merchandising and sales, brand partnership, media rights and game publisher investments. Altogether, the industry will generate over \$337 million, according to Newzoo.

The market is definitely there for gamers and enthusiasts. Like any conventional sport, the players don uniforms, work in teams and compete in tournament style brackets.

Rated as the most popular PC game according to Statista, League of Legends logs over 27 million people daily, and over 7.5 million playing simultaneously at peak hours according to their parent company Riot Games.

In League of Legends, two teams of five compete in a virtual map under the guise of characters, each with their own unique personality and set of abilities controlled by the user’s keyboard strokes and mouse in order to destroy the opposing enemy base.

Imagine a 5v5 combination of capture the flag and chess where these ten players sit together side-by-side with desktop computers on a center stage, surrounded by hundreds of fans who are watching the action take place on a jumbo screen.

Generally, only people who understand what’s truly going on when watching video game streams are people who play these games; however, unlike traditional sports, video games tend to have less rules and are easier to pick up in terms of context.

In terms of recognition there have been some surprising developments: the federal government treats professional gamers as actual athletes, granting them visas in a similar manner.

In South Korea, where eSports is a national pastime, Korea

has created an organization to manage over 25 eSports organizations called the Korea eSports Association (KeSPA)

In 2014, KeSPA successfully managed and released new policies alongside Riot Games, directed toward the welfare and treatment of Korean eSports players.

There is talk of a similar association for U.S. gamers.

In another twist, a few colleges have been issuing scholarships for video games including Columbia College of Missouri and Robert Morris University in Chicago.

With the state of eSports and amount of people playing video games only slated to grow, it seems inevitable that professional gaming will become more and more mainstream.

At the professional level, players are practicing upwards for 60 hours per week sometimes in what is referred to “gaming houses,” dedicated to honing their abilities.

Some of these professionals are surprisingly young, mostly averaging in ages from 17 to 25, while the average video gamer is 35 years old according to Entertainment Software Association.

Though eSports will not see coverage on basic cable networks in the near future, it is interesting to see them take notice and test the waters.

The CW aired the conclusion of its series “Chasing the Cup” focusing on “Mortal Kombat X” on Feb. 15.

TBS will begin airing its “ELeague” focused on the game “Counter Strike: Global Offensive” in the summer of 2016 with two 10-week blocks of programming, accompanied by an additional 30 hours of events online.

The League of Legends North American League Championship Series will conclude in Las Vegas on April 16-17; the playoffs which are currently taking place are streamed live on Twitch.tv every weekend until March 20 from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Whether or not you consider video games a sport or are even interested, the numbers alone and amount of people who play video games is staggering.

If video gaming doesn’t garner your respect, it will definitely try to grab your attention in the future.

Follow Justin on Twitter @Justin_Tonel

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Weekend preview

Friday	Softball 11:15PM UT SJSU	Baseball 6:00PM SJSU UCI	Women's Tennis 2:00PM SJSU UA
	WSU 1:30PM SJSU Las Vegas, Nev.	Municipal Stadium	Tucson, Ariz.

Saturday	Women's Basketball 2:00PM SJSU SDSU	Baseball 1:00PM SJSU UCI 4:00PM SJSU UCI	Softball 3:45PM PSU SJSU 6:00PM UTEP SJSU	Women's Tennis 12:00PM SJSU ASU
	San Diego, Calif.	Municipal Stadium	Las Vegas, Nev.	Tucson, Ariz.

Sunday	Baseball 1:00PM SJSU UCI	Softball 1:30PM OSU SJSU	Men's Basketball 1:00PM SJSU SDSU
	Municipal Stadium	Las Vegas, Nev.	Event Center

Infographic by Kevin Mistry



Photo by Terrell Lloyd and Infographic by Kevin Mistry

By Rebecca Pirayou
Staff writer

Sophomore outfielder Brittany Abacherli of the Spartan women's softball team not only stood out amongst the rest of her teammates this weekend when the team played the University of Tennessee, but she also took her personal best to the next level. Although the team fell 9-2 to UT, Abacherli had a lot to celebrate regarding her personal progress. She knocked in two runs with the first homerun of her college career. She also batted .400 in the first six games. Abacherli and the Spartans will be on the diamond during the DiMarini Desert Classic in Las Vegas where the team will take on multiple teams over the weekend.

From page 1

Wolfpack bites San Jose State

By Nick Avila
Staff writer

The SJSU men's basketball team fell to the Nevada Wolf Pack 61-55 in a game that saw 11 lead changes Wednesday night at the Event Center.

After controlling much of the game, the Spartans cooled off during the stretch and Nevada closed the game with a 16-3 run that sealed the Spartans' fate.

Spartans head coach Dave Wojcik said he thought his team controlled the game for much of the night.

"We just didn't make the plays," Coach Wojcik said.

The game got off to a slow start and was tied 8-8 with 12 minutes to play in the first half.

Spartans forward Frank Rogers finished with 14 points and a career-high 17 rebounds and came out hot with six of the team's first eight points.

The Wolf Pack then made their move as they went on an 8-2 run to take a 16-10 lead.

The Spartans answered right back and took a 17-16 lead after a 7-0 run fueled by a Ryan Welage hook shot and capped off by an Isaac Thornton layup.

The momentum changed hands when Brandon Clarke had a rim-rocking dunk after the Spartans came up with a steal.

Welage, who finished with 14 points on 5 of 11 shootings, capped off the first half with a three-pointer and it seemed the Spartans had taken control of the game heading into halftime with a 31-22 lead.

SJSU came out in the second half and increased their lead to a game-high 11 after a pair of free throws from Jaycee Hill-smann, but Nevada wouldn't go away.

After Nevada chipped at the Spartans lead, hustling for offensive rebounds and forcing turnovers, the Wolf Pack tied the game 35-35 with 14:06 to play.

The game went back and forth from there as both teams exchanged buckets, until they once again found themselves tied, this time at 55-55 with only 1:49 remaining in the game.

Nevada took a 57-55 lead with 41 seconds left and the Spartans tried to respond.



Quincy Bouldin | Spartan Daily

Spartan forward Ryan Welage (right) defends wolfpack guard D.J. Fenner (left). Welage finished with 14 points.

played a big role in the loss.

"I just don't think we executed," Rogers said. "I think we had a couple turnovers down the stretch that hurt us."

After allowing just 22 points in the first half, Nevada was able to dominate inside in the second half as they exploded for 39 points.

They outscored the Spartans 20-12 in the paint in the second half and proved to be the more aggressive team.

Even with the loss, Welage thinks the Spartans still have a lot to play for as the season begins to wind down.

"We're in almost every game, I mean, we've competed," Welage said. "There's really nobody we can't play against and hang with — compete with. But, we've let a lot of games slip at the end. So, I think moving forward for these last few games of the season, it's going to be important to finish games out and try to get hot and make a run at the tournament."

The Spartans next home game will be against the San Diego State Aztecs on Feb. 21 at the Event Center at 1 p.m.

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Spartans swing for the fences in new season

By Ryan Vermont
Staff writer

The 2015 season for the San Jose State University baseball team was one to forget. In the entire season, they won just 13 games. Now, the Spartans enter the 2016 season itching to show that last season was a fluke.

"We've got a lot of fielders and position guys and our pitching staff is getting a lot better, maturing a little bit...depth and experience is key," said senior outfielder Mitch Ravizza. "Winning the Mountain West is always a goal."

Ravizza said that people might consider it a farfetched goal based on the result of previous seasons, but thinks this year's team has a chance to shock a few people.

Ravizza, a two sport athlete in football and baseball for SJSU who is in his final year isn't the only one noticing the improvements from last season's team.

"I think we have depth on the mound, depth on the position player side. There's a lot of competition and a lot of jobs still up for grabs" said Head Coach Dave Nakama, who is heading into his fourth season with the Spartans.

Ravizza returns to the team after only playing in 20 games last season, but is part of a veteran group that has 14 position players returning.

"As a coach you like that [competition]," said Nakama "People got to work hard every day and it's a good motivating tool for us."

Along with some departures from the 2015 season, the coaching staff added some new faces to the team. Some of the notable additions include junior college transfer

pitcher Joe Balfour, as well as freshman outfielder Hunter Tidwell, catcher Cal Koga and catcher Brendt Citta.

"I like our freshman," Nakama said. "Brendt Citta and Hunter Tidwell, I think those two guys are going to play right away."

As for Balfour and Koga, Nakama said Balfour is "tender" and may need to rest the first week or two of the regular season. Koga will be used as a defensive replacement late in games.

Citta, a freshman catcher from Leland High School in San Jose said he is excited to play some of the big name schools like Michigan, Stanford and UC Irvine.

Nakama said that he is confident in the depth his lineup top to bottom, but is a little less confident talking about the depth of the pitching staff.

"We may not have a lot of them, but I think we have a good nucleus of seven or eight guys that can do the job for us," Nakama said.

UC Irvine, which made the College World Series in 2014 and won 15 straight games in 2015 is a tough matchup but will give the Spartans an early opportunity to test themselves against a powerhouse college baseball program.

Opening day is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Feb. 19 with two games, as well as back to back games the following day at 1 and 4 p.m.

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